



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District
Public Affairs Office

News Release

News Release No. 01-06

Date:
February 22, 2001

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Corps to close navigation locks for annual maintenance

Walla Walla, Wash., -- Eight sets of navigation locks at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers will close for approximately two weeks beginning March 3, at 6 a.m., according to a technical official from the Corps' Walla Walla District.

The locks are scheduled to reopen at 11:59 p.m., March 17. The closure period coincides with outages at other Corps dams in the region. Affected navigation locks at Walla Walla District dams include McNary Dam, Umatilla, Ore., on the Columbia River. Along the Snake River in Washington: Ice Harbor near the Tri-Cities; Lower Monumental near Kahlotus; Little Goose near Starbuck; and, Lower Granite near Pomeroy. Other Corps facilities along the Columbia River in Oregon that will be affected during the outage period include John Day Dam near Rufus, The Dalles Dam at The Dalles, and Bonneville Dam near Cascade Locks. These facilities are operated by the Corps' Portland District.

"The outage will let workers inspect and service the locks' mechanical systems and related facilities. These locks will be closed to all commercial and recreation waterborne traffic during the annual work," said Carl Knaak, a District dam operations and maintenance official. "Drivers trying to cross Ice Harbor and Lower Monumental dams in their vehicles may experience occasional delays due to work at those locks. Some delays could be several hours long."

The eight Corps navigation locks provide a 465-mile inland waterway from the mouth of the Columbia River at the Pacific Ocean, past seaport terminals in Portland, Ore., turning upstream on the Snake River near the Tri-Cities area of Washington, and inland to the mouth of the Clearwater River at Lewiston, Idaho.

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